Attachment 11 must be no more than 10 pages in length using a minimum 10-point type font.

Submit a discussion on how the Proposal assists in meeting the Program Preference(s) described in Section II.F of the Guidelines. The discussion must identify the specific Program Preference(s) that the Proposal will meet; the certainty that the Proposal will meet the Program Preference(s); and the breadth and magnitude to which the Program Preference(s) will be met. Meeting the Program Preference(s) identified by the applicant will become a condition of the grant agreement in the event that the Proposal is awarded grant funding. Include graphics or maps as necessary to demonstrate how your proposal meets the preferences.

Introduction

Implementation of the projects outlined in this proposal and described in the IRWMP will meet all of the eight major Program Preferences, including most CALFED objectives and Statewide Priorities, as summarized below and listed by project on Table 1.

1. Include Regional Projects/Programs

All eight of the projects in this IRWM Program Implementation Grant proposal meet this program preference.

The Ventura County Regional Urban Landscape Efficiency (VC-RULE) (R-1) project is a coordinated effort of nine water agencies across all three watersheds in Ventura County to provide landscape water use efficiency services. The large number of water agencies and their distribution across the County makes this a regional project by its very definition. VC-RULE will provide customers with a landscape water survey and water use efficiency devices targeted at reducing landscape water use by 20 percent for participating customers.

Calleguas Salinity Management Pipeline (SMP), Phase 2A (C-14); Camrosa Round Mountain Desalter (C-13); and CamSan/ Camrosa Recycled Water (RW) Interconnection (C-15) build on prior WCVC IRWM Plan projects to implement a regional approach to comply with the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for salt and related constituents in the Calleguas Creek Watershed. The SMP is a cornerstone project integral to the implementation of the desalters (by providing a mechanism for saline concentrate disposal) and overall salt management in the Calleguas Creek Watershed (by removing salts associated with surface water discharges of wastewater). The SMP will provide concentrate disposal for the Round Mountain Desalter (C-13), as well as many other brackish groundwater desalters described in the IRWM Plan, and excess recycled water disposal for the RW Interconnection (C-15). The SMP will also receive discharge of well backwash water from the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) Seawater Barrier Pilot Well (SC-9). This combination of projects takes a truly regional approach to resolving water supply reliability and water quality issues.

UWCD Seawater Barrier Well (SC-9) will address the seawater intrusion problem within the Oxnard Plain, a large regional aquifer responsible for 50 to 60 percent of the County's groundwater supply. It is estimated that approximately 22 square miles of aquifer have been contaminated by seawater intrusion. The project will be implemented in conjunction with a suite of regional projects, including the City of Oxnard's Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment (GREAT) and Calleguas' SMP.

Previously, UWCD's approach to regional management of seawater intrusion has included construction of facilities to move pumping away from the coast and recharge the aquifer, such as UWCD's OH pipeline and Freeman diversion in the Oxnard Forebay area of the Oxnard Plain aquifer. To further protect the aquifers which are an important regional water supply, UWCD needs to construct additional facilities to bring the regional aquifers into balance over the long-term thereby improving the reliability of regional supplies to reduce dependence on imported supplies from the State Water Project, especially in times of drought.

Table 1: Program Preferences Summary

Program Preferences	Proposal Summary	VC-RULE (R-1)	Calleguas SMP Phase 2A (C-14)	Camrosa Round Mountain Desalter (C-13)	CamSan/ Camrosa RW Interconnection (C-15)	UWCD Seawater Barrier Pilot Well (SC-9)	VCWWD No. 16 Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10)	TNC NFPP (SC-7)	OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5)
	Project Proponent, Name, and IRWMP Project No.								
1. Include regional projects/programs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Integrate water management within hydrologic region	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Contribute to attainment or one or more objectives to CALFED of:									
a. Ecosystem quality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
b. Water supply	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
c. Water quality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
d. Levee system integrity[1]	**N/A**								
5. Address critical water supply/quality needs of DAC	✓						✓		
6. Effectively integrate water management with land use planning	✓							✓	✓
7. For Flood Management - projects that provide multiple benefits	✓							✓	✓
8. Address Statewide Priorities of:									
a. Drought preparedness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
b. Use and reuse water more efficiently	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
c. Climate change response actions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
d. Expand environmental stewardship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
e. Practice integrated flood management	✓							✓	✓
f. Protect surface water and groundwater quality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
g. Improve tribal water and natural resources[2]	**N/A**								
h. Ensure equitable distribution of benefits	✓						✓		

[1] Not applicable because no Delta levees occur in Ventura County.
[2] Not applicable because no Native American tribes recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs reside in Ventura County.

VCWWD No. 16 Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) furthers the regional goals of the Fillmore Integrated Water Recycling and Wetlands Project (SC-3), which was implemented under the IRWMP Proposition 50 Implementation Grant, and other similar projects in the Santa Clara Watershed to meet salt mandates comparable to those in the Calleguas Creek Watershed and protect and protect regional groundwater supplies.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Natural Floodplain Protection Program (NFPP) (SC-7) will help to preserve the function of the 500-year floodplain of the Santa Clara River Watershed, the largest of the three watersheds in the WCVC Region, and provide widespread benefits in protecting existing developed areas and preserving habitat. The 500-year floodplain is distributed along the length of the Santa Clara River and the area protected by the project is therefore regional in scope.

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) provides regional benefits that extend outside its footprint, by maintaining a non-structural flood protection solution for schools, highways, and other land uses in the Ventura River Watershed. Without this project, wetlands constructed to prevent flooding would be vulnerable to sedimentation and flooding would be an ongoing threat to State Highway 33, a key regional transportation corridor, and the negative economic and environmental impact of flooding would be felt by residents, students, and businesses throughout the Ventura River Watershed and beyond. In addition, the 41-acre uplands restoration, in concert with the previously restored wetlands provide water quality treatment such that the downstream Ventura River waterway is also protected.

2. Integrate Water Management Within Hydrologic Region

The projects within Ventura County are primarily integrated because:

- There are strong interrelationships among projects.
- They address common regional issues related to increasing local water supplies, improving water quality, and controlling flooding.

As a water use efficiency project, VC-RULE (R-1) is foundational to and integrates with the other water management activities in the County. For the nine water agencies participating in VC-RULE, water use efficiency is part of an integrated portfolio of water management that also includes recycled water, groundwater desalting, and aquifer storage and recovery. In addition, by providing water use efficiency to the nine agencies, it integrates the activities of the agencies for efficient program delivery.

SMP Phase 2A (C-14); Round Mountain Desalter (C-13); and RW Interconnection (C-15) are an integrated suite of projects. As described earlier, the SMP is a cornerstone project integral to the desalters and overall salt management. The SMP will provide concentrate disposal for the Round Mountain Desalter (C-13), as well as many other brackish groundwater desalters, and excess recycled water disposal for the RW Interconnection (C-15), as well as discharge of backwash water from the Seawater Barrier Pilot Well (SC-9). These projects are fully integrated with the SMP such that they cannot be implemented without the SMP, since the SMP provides the sole mechanism for disposal of concentrate and other saline waters in the Calleguas Creek Watershed.

Seawater Barrier Well (SC-9) will be operated as part of UWCD's integrated water management facilities, such as the OH pipeline and the Freeman diversion. These projects also integrate with the GREAT Program, a cooperative, multi-agency water resources project that will develop and distribute a new high-quality recycled water supply that can also be injected to prevent further seawater intrusion. UWCD's multi-faceted approach to integrated regional management of groundwater resources continues to include operation of facilities to move pumping away from the coast and recharge the aquifer, in addition to the implementation of the Seawater Barrier Well.

Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) integrates with the Fillmore Integrated Water Recycling and Wetlands Project (SC-3) that was implemented under the IRWMP Proposition 50 Implementation Grant in that they both provide a recycled water for an alternative, lower cost water supply and eliminate direct discharge to the Santa Clara River and its groundwater basins to achieve salts reduction mandates.

TNC NFPP (SC-7) offers multiple, integrated benefits across the Santa Clara River Watershed, including flood damage reduction, ecosystem preservation, and water quality protection. The benefits go well beyond that of preserving the 500-year floodplain of the Santa Clara River Watershed, and include benefits of preserving ecosystems by reducing scour from flood flows, and improving water quality by providing buffer areas for passive treatment of stormwater flows.

The OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) integrates habitat restoration, flood management, and water quality improvement into a single project that provides both onsite and offsite benefits. The habitat restoration element integrates both uplands and wetlands habitats, while the flood management strategies integrate wetlands detention with infiltration, and the water quality improvements integrate filtration, erosion control, and settling. In addition, this project integrates with the Upper and Lower Ventura River Groundwater Management Plan project which is currently underway and funded under Proposition 50.

The integrated benefits of TNC NFPP and OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration are further described in Item 7.

3. Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts Within or Between Regions

All eight of the projects in this grant proposal effectively resolve a significant water-related conflict within and/or between regions by addressing current or potential risks associated with water supply reliability, water quality mandates, and flooding. By developing, improving, or using the local water supply more efficiently, VC-RULE (R-1), SMP Phase 2A (C-14), Round Mountain Desalter (C-14), RW Interconnection (C-15), and Seawater Barrier Well (SC-9) resolve a significant water-related conflict between regions because they all allow reductions to the dependence on imported water from the State Water Project (SWP), which originates from outside the region and is fraught with conflict due to regulatory issues, drought, and climate change.

The Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) resolves a significant water-related conflict because it addresses salts issues in the Santa Clara River Watershed, avoiding significant potential conflict among the many water and wastewater service entities and private landowners, particularly agricultural, in the area. It also provides a lower-cost, alternative, local water supply in a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) that is dependent on local groundwater.

The TNC NFPP (SC-7) and OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) both help to resolve the significant regional water conflict resulting from flooding in their respective areas. The TNC NFPP (SC-7) prevents development in the 500-year floodplain by purchase of conservation easements. Through hydrologic modeling by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, a project partner, it has been demonstrated that this approach will reduce downstream flooding in developed areas of the watershed, thus avoiding or resolving potential future conflict. Similarly, the OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) resolves localized flooding on State Highway 33, a regional transportation corridor. By preventing flooding and associated damage and providing natural stormwater treatment, downstream interests are also protected thus, avoiding a water-related conflict with downstream users within the region.

4. Contribute to Attainment of One or More Objectives to CALFED

As identified in the table and item 3, and as discussed in detail in Attachment 15 – Delta Water, five of the eight projects in the grant proposal reduce dependence on imported water from the Delta, which facilitates attainment of three of the four CALFED objectives. These five projects are VC-RULE (R-1), SMP Phase 2A (C-14), Round Mountain Desalter (C-13), RW Interconnection (C-15), and Pilot Barrier Well (SC-9). These projects either conserve water or

allow development of a local water resource to reduce dependence on Delta water.

By reducing imported water demands, more water will be available in the Delta to improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecosystem quality, provide additional water supply to reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and current/ projected beneficial uses, and improve water quality for all beneficial uses. As no Delta levees are located within Ventura County, it is not possible for a WCVC project to contribute to the CALFED objective for levee system integrity.

5. Address Critical Water Supply/ Quality Needs of DAC

As discussed in detail in Attachment 12 and briefly discussed in Item 3, the Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) addresses both critical water supply and water quality needs of a DAC, specifically Piru.

As discussed in the UWCD 2008 Piru and Fillmore Groundwater Basins Annual Groundwater Conditions Report (2008 Report), the Piru area groundwater basin provides both agricultural and municipal water supply. The data presented in the 2008 Report indicates that, particularly during periods of extended drought, the groundwater basin can become rapidly depleted resulting in a lower water level that can require greater pumping lifts as well as declining water quality.

Lower water levels can particularly affect agricultural wells and potentially reduce agricultural production, which could pose a significant hardship to the residents of Piru, many of whom likely work in the nearby agricultural fields. In addition, the current disposal method of percolation ponds for the wastewater from the Piru wastewater treatment plant is causing a violation of the Regional Water Quality Control Board groundwater quality objectives.

Implementation of the Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) allows beneficial reuse of recycled water for agricultural purposes, which will provide an alternative water supply to address the critical water supply need and eliminate the discharge to the percolation ponds to address the critical water quality need in this DAC.

6. Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning

The TNC NFPP (SC-7) and OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) both effectively integrate water management with land use planning by either changing the land use and/or modifying the activities of the property such that they are appropriate uses for land within the floodplain. The TNC NFPP (SC-7) will permanently maintain the land use of specific parcels of land located within the 500-year floodplain by purchasing easements to only allow agricultural or other activities compatible with the floodplain to take place on the property.

Similarly, the OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) has changed the land use to Conservation Easement, but has also modified the activities of the property such that it now provides flood storage in its wetland as well as ecological habitat, both of which are appropriate land uses in the floodplain. In addition, the project also prevents flooding on Highway 33 and the nearby high school with its emergency operations center so that these properties can be safely and reliably used for their intended land uses. The Final Phase of the restoration effort is necessary to prevent sedimentation of the wetlands and preserve the wetland's flood control capabilities.

7. For Flood Management - Projects that Provide Multiple Benefits

As discussed in item 3, the TNC NFPP (SC-7) and OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) both reduce flooding in their respective areas. The TNC NFPP (SC-7) prevents development in portions of the 500-year floodplain, which provides significant, multiple benefits including:

- Preserving farmland and open space
- Conserving habitat by preventing habitat removal by levee construction
- Protecting endangered species
- Preventing erosion and scour caused by levee construction and the associated increased flow velocities
- Providing groundwater recharge on the floodplain

- Reducing the need to upgrade downstream flood control structures
- Eliminating the need for future flood control structures and their associated maintenance costs.

Similarly, the OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) provides additional benefits beyond flood management. These additional benefits include:

- Preserving access to the flood emergency center at Nordhoff High School
- Creating wetlands that filter pollutants from stormwater
- Implementing erosion control to reduce sedimentation in tributaries to the Ventura River
- Creating habitat, which may be attractive to endangered/threatened species
- Preventing land uses that would increase demand on local water supplies.

8. Address Statewide Priorities

As summarized in Table 1, the eight projects in the proposal address seven of the eight statewide priorities of:

- ☑ Drought preparedness
- ☑ Use and reuse water more efficiently
- ☑ Climate change response actions
- ☑ Expand environmental stewardship
- ☑ Practice integrated flood management
- ☑ Protect surface water and groundwater quality
- ☐ Improve tribal water and natural resources
- ☑ Ensure equitable distribution of benefits

Each statewide priority and the activities and projects that support the priority are summarized in Table 2 and are discussed in greater detail.

Drought Preparedness

By developing, improving, reusing, or using more efficiently a local water supply, six of the eight projects improve regional drought preparedness by reducing dependence on imported water. VC-RULE (R-1) will achieve long-term reduction of potable water use which allows the available potable supplies to be used for municipal purposes. The RW Inter-connection (C-15) establishes a recycled water system intertie between CamSan and Camrosa so that Camrosa can not only expand recycled water use within their existing distribution system but also increase the reliability of recycled water to their customers by providing an alternative recycled water supply.

Table 2: Statewide Priorities Summary

Statewide Priorities	VC-RULE (R-1)	Calleguas SMP Phase 2A (C-14)	Camrosa Round Mountain Desalter (C-13)	CamSan/Camrosa RW Interconnection (C-15)	UWCD Seawater Barrier Pilot Well (SC-9)	VCWWD No. 16 Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10)	TNC NFPP (SC-7)	OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5)
Drought Preparedness Activity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Promote water conservation, conjunctive use, reuse and recycling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Improve landscape and agricultural irrigation efficiencies	✓							
Achieve long term reduction of water use	✓							
Efficient groundwater basin management		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Establish system interties				✓				

Statewide Priorities	VC-RULE (R-1)	Calleguas SMP Phase 2A (C-14)	Camrosa Round Mountain Desalter (C-13)	CamSan/Camrosa RW Interconnection (C-15)	UWCD Seawater Barrier Pilot Well (SC-9)	VCWWD No. 16 Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10)	TNC NFPP (SC-7)	OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5)
Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Increase urban and agricultural water use efficiency measures such as conservation and recycling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Capture, store, treat, and use urban stormwater runoff							✓	✓
Incorporate and implement LID to reduce or eliminate stormwater runoff								
Climate Change Response Actions Including Adaptation to Climate Change, Reduction in GHG, Reduce Energy Consumption	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advance/expand conjunctive mgmt of multiple water sources		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Use and reuse water more efficiently	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water management system modifications that address anticipated climate change impacts (e.g. rising sea level)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Re-establish river-floodplain hydrologic continuity, protect upper watershed/meadow systems							✓	✓
Reduce energy consumption of water systems and uses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Use cleaner energy sources to move and treat water								
Water Use efficiency/recycling/energy efficiency/reuse runoff for GHG and energy reduction	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Expand Environmental Stewardship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Improve watersheds, floodplains, and in-stream functions and sustain water/flood management ecosystems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Practice Integrated Flood Management							✓	✓
Better emergency preparedness/response								✓
Improved flood protection/more sustainable flood and water mgmt systems							✓	✓
Enhanced floodplain ecosystems							✓	✓
LID Techniques								
Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Statewide Priorities	VC-RULE (R-1)	Calleguas SMP Phase 2A (C-14)	Camrosa Round Mountain Desalter (C-13)	CamSan/Camrosa RW Interconnection (C-15)	UWCD Seawater Barrier Pilot Well (SC-9)	VCWWD No. 16 Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10)	TNC NFPP (SC-7)	OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5)
Protect/restore stormwater/groundwater and secure water supplies for beneficial uses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Salt/nutrient management planning		✓	✓	✓				
Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits						✓		
Increase participation of DAC in IRWM Process						✓		
Develop multi-benefit projects for DAC/vulnerable populations						✓		
Contain projects that address safe drinking water and wastewater treatment needs of DAC						✓		
Address critical water supply/quality needs of Native American Tribes[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] Not applicable because no Native American tribes recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs reside in Ventura County.

The Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) provides an alternative water supply to agriculture that will allow local groundwater from a vulnerable groundwater basin to be used for municipal/ industrial uses during a drought. The Seawater Barrier Well (SC-9) plans to inject RW from the GREAT program, which provides a potential drought supply. The TNC NFPP (SC-7) and OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) allow floodwaters to better recharge groundwater basins augmenting drought supplies and improving drought preparedness.

Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently

VC-RULE (R-1), SMP Phase 2A (C-14), RW Interconnection(C-15), and Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) provide improved efficiency of water use and/or reuse because they are water conservation or recycling programs. VC-RULE (R-1) specifically targets large landscape areas where the potential to improve water use efficiency, and therefore, water savings is high. SMP 2A (C-14) and Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) both facilitate the beneficial use of recycled water, allowing more efficient use of water resources by providing non-potable water in lieu of potable water where appropriate. The RW Interconnection (C-15) establishes a recycled water system intertie between CamSan and Camrosa so that Camrosa can not only expand recycled water use within their existing distribution system, but also increase the reliability of recycled water to their customers by providing an alternative recycled water supply. The Seawater Barrier Well (SC-9) plans to inject RW from the GREAT program, which will provide beneficial reuse of RW, especially during the wintertime when RW demands are low. The TNC NFPP (SC-7) and OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) allow floodwaters to better recharge groundwater basins rather than flowing to the ocean which is a more efficient use of local surface waters.

Climate Change Response Actions

VC-RULE (R-1), SMP Phase 2A (C-14), Round Mountain Desalter (C-13), RW Interconnection

(C-15), and Seawater Barrier Well (SC-9) reduce dependence on imported water and therefore, reduce energy consumption for water delivery because imported water requires significant pumping to lift water over the mountains. Additionally, it is anticipated that climate change will decrease Sierra snowpack, limiting the availability of SWP water; the reduction in imported water use therefore, is an appropriate climate change response action. The Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) provides an alternative water supply that can be used during extended dry periods and also retains local groundwater in storage for droughts.

The TNC NFPP (SC-7) and OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) provide climate change response actions by either re-establishing river floodplains as in the TNC NFPP or protecting watershed/meadow systems as in the OVLC project. These floodplains will be valuable as climate change is anticipated to change hydrology such that peak flood flows may increase, rendering these floodplains even more valuable in the future. Additionally, the carbon sequestration provided by plantings associated with the Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration is an appropriate climate change response action to help reduce GHG.

Expand Environmental Stewardship

The TNC NFPP (SC-7) and OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) expand environmental stewardship because they prevent habitat destruction and/or provide habitat restoration. VC-RULE (R-1) expands environmental stewardships by reducing stormwater runoff and the associated pollutant load to the downstream waterways. SMP Phase 2A (C-14), in conjunction with Round Mountain Desalter (C-13) and RW Interconnection (C-15), expand environmental stewardship by reducing salt discharges to Calleguas Creek and its tributaries by exporting it through the SMP to the ocean.

The Seawater Barrier Well (SC-9) and the Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) expand environmental stewardship by improving overall water management in the Santa Clara River Watershed through reducing seawater intrusion and beneficially reusing recycled water.

Practice Integrated Flood Management

The TNC NFPP (SC-7) is a sustainable flood and water management approach that enhances the floodplain ecosystem by preventing development in the 500-year floodplain and protecting development that would otherwise require protection with levees. Similarly, the OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) is a more sustainable approach to protecting Highway 33 and the emergency operation center at Nordhoff High School because it includes wetlands/habitat restoration with significant ecosystem benefit. The integrated benefits of TNC NFPP and OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration are further described in Item 7.

Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

VC-RULE (R-1) protects surface water quality by reducing stormwater runoff and associated pollutant loads. The SMP Phase 2A (C-14), Round Mountain Desalter (C-1), and RW Interconnection (C-15) all protect surface water by reducing salt loading to Calleguas Creek by discharging saline waters to the SMP. The Seawater Barrier Well (SC-9) protects groundwater by reducing seawater intrusion and the Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) protects groundwater by eliminating the use of the wastewater percolation ponds and enabling beneficial reuse of recycled water for agricultural irrigation instead. The TNC NFPP (SC-7) provides surface water quality benefits by reducing flow velocities and volumes that reduce scour and associated erosion. The OVLC Ojai Meadows Ecosystem Restoration (V-5) reduces uplands erosion and provides wetlands treatment of stormwater prior to discharge to a tributary of the Ventura River.

Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources

This priority does not apply as there are no Native American tribes recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Ventura County as described on the BIA website at http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/RegionalOffices/Pacific/WeAre/SouthernCalifornia/ index.htm.

Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

The Piru Tertiary Upgrade (SC-10) provides the participation of a DAC in the IRWM Process and addresses a critical water supply and water quality need in the Piru DAC, ensuring more equitable distribution of benefits.

Certainty, Breadth, and Magnitude of Meeting Program Preferences

The certainty that the projects will collectively meet the respective Program Preferences is high. In most cases, several projects meet the Program Preference. Four of the eight projects have some phases already completed which indicate the project proponents' commitment to the project and thereby increases the certainty of implementing the project and thereby meeting the program preference. Other projects that are in their initial phases have received initial financial support from stakeholders and agencies through the IRWM Plan implementation process, thus improving the certainty of meeting the program preferences. Project proponents are all committed to implementing the projects and have secured appropriate matching funds to do so.

The breadth and magnitude of meeting the preferences varies with the preference, but is generally excellent. Preference 1 - Regional Projects, Preference 2 - Integration of Water Management, and Preference 3 - Resolve Significant Conflicts are met by all eight projects across all three watersheds, which indicates excellent breadth and magnitude. Preference 4 - Contribute to CALFED Objectives is met by six of the eight projects, which indicates very good breadth and magnitude. Preference 5 - DAC is met directly in the only watershed at the single location where there is a DAC, which indicates fair breadth and magnitude. Preference 6 - Integration with Land Use Planning and Preference 7 - Flood Management with Multiple Benefits are met by two of the eight projects, which indicates fair to good breadth and magnitude. Seven of eight Statewide Priorities found in Preference 8 are met by multiple activities within each applicable statewide priority which indicates excellent breadth and magnitude.